1.s 81

FRANCE: GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ISSUED ON CAR INTERVENTION

LD261456 PARIS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH 1100 GMT 26 SEP 79 LD

(EXCERPT) AFTER THIS MORNING'S CABINET MEETING, A MAJOR GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON THE FALL OF EX-EMPEROR BOKASSA WAS READ BY ELYSEE SPOKESMAN PIERRE HUNT: (BEGIN RECORDING)

THE OVERTHROW OF FOUR DICTATORIAL REGIMES WHICH WAS RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE IN UGANDA, NICARAGUA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND CENTRAL AFRICA WAS ACCOMPANIED, IN THE FIRST THREE CASES, BY THOUSANDS OF DEATHS. IT WAS ONLY THE CHANGE OF REGIME IN CENTRAL AFRICA WHICH WAS EFFECTED WITHOUT A SINGLE DROP OF BLOOD BEING SHED. THE REACTION OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN POPULATION WAS FAVORABLE, NOT ONLY IN BANGUI, WHERE THE NEW ARRIVALS WERE GREETED AS LIBERATORS, BUT ALSO IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, WHERE NO DISTURBANCE HAS BEEN REPORTED.

WHAT WAS THE ROLE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT? FROM THE TIME WHEN REPRESSIVE VIOLENCE WAS BEING WAGED BY BANGUI AGAINST THE POPULATION, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THAT THESE ACTIONS, WHICH CONTRAVENED HUMAN RIGHTS, DISALLOWED SUPPORT FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REGIME. IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE FACTS TO BE ESTABLISHED AND FOR THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES TO PASS JUDGMENT ON WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE. THAT IS WHY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC PROPOSED TO THE FRANCO-AFRICAN CONFERENCE IN KIGALI THE SETTING-UP OF A VERIFICATION COMMISSION COMPOSED EXCLUSIVELY OF AFRICAN MAGISTRATES.

HE STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BASE ITS CONCLUSIONS ON THE RESULTS OF THE COMMISSION'S INQUIRIES. THE REPORT, PUBLISHED ON 16 AUGUST 1979, ESTABLISHED THE REAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ATROCITIES WHICH WERE COMMITTED. FROM THAT TIME, ALL AID WAS SUSPENDED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HUMANITARIAN AND FOOD AID.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED ANGUISHED APPEALS FROM THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, THE PRIME MINISTER IN OFFICE AND OTHER CENTRAL AFRICAN OFFICIALS TO LIBERATE THEIR COUNTRY FROM THE OPPRESSION TO WHICH IT HAD BEEN SUBJECTED. THE GOVERNMENT REPLIED THAT FRANCE WAS PREPARED TO SATISFY THEIR CALLS FOR AID AS SOON AS THEY COULD BE MADE ON THE SPOT BY THOSE WHO, AS OPPOSED TO THE DEPOSED EMPEROR, WERE COMPETENT TO REPRESENT CENTRAL AFRICA.

THAT IS WHAT WAS DONE. THIS ACTION, AFTER THE ELIMINATION OF THE CONDEMNED REGIME, PERMITTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW REGIME WHICH HAS THE BURDENSOME TASK OF RECONSTRUCTING THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. IN THIS TASK THE CENTRAL AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE, A PEACEFUL AND HARD-WORKING PEOPLE, WILL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE ACTIVE AND FRIENDLY SUPPORT OF FRANCE. THAT IS WHY AID AND COOPERATION WILL BE RESUMED IMMEDIATELY.

THE GOVERNMENT CONCLUDES ITS STATEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING WAY: IT IS TO THE CREDIT OF THOSE WHO ACTED IN CENTRAL AFRICA THAT THEY ELIMINATED TYRANNY WITHOUT ADDING ANY FURTHER PERIOD TO THE SEVERAL MONTHS OF SUFFERING WHICH THE CENTRAL AFRICAN PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY SUFFERED. (END RECORDING)

26 SEP 16052 DM/KK

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